

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A tamper evident closure comprising a preform from which a container can be blown, ~~the said~~ preform being of a heat shrinkable material and having a circumferentially extending flange encircling a neck of ~~the said~~ preform and protruding therefrom, there being a band upstanding from ~~the said circumferentially extending flange, the said~~ band encircling the said neck and being connected to a face of ~~the said circumferentially extending flange, the said~~ band, ~~the wherein said circumferentially extending flange and the a part of the said~~ preform adjacent ~~the to said circumferentially extending flange defining defines~~ a trough.
2. (currently amended) ~~A preform~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the said~~ neck has a bead adjacent said circumferentially extending the flange, the said bead being positioned so that on shrinking of ~~the said~~ band onto ~~the said~~ neck, a part of ~~the said~~ band is on ~~the a~~ side of the said bead remote from said circumferentially extending the flange.
3. (currently amended) ~~A preform~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~the said~~ band is connected to ~~the said~~ face of said circumferentially extending the flange by way of a series of circumferentially spaced bridges, there being openings between adjacent bridges.
4. (currently amended) ~~A preform~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said band is hollow and has a ~~radially radial~~ inner wall one circular edge of which is joined to said circumferentially extending the flange and a ~~radially radial~~ outer wall spaced from ~~the said radial~~ inner wall and having one circular edge joined to said circumferentially extending the flange, there being a cylindrical gap between said radial inner wall and said radial outer wall ~~walls wherein and an the upper ends end of said radial inner wall and said radial outer wall the walls are being joined to one another to close that a first end of said gap, the wherein a second other end of the said gap is being open and constituting a circular slot in said circumferentially extending the flange.~~

5. (currently amended) ~~A preform from which a container can be blown, the preform being of heat shrinkable material and having a circumferentially extending flange,~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said circumferentially extending flange comprises a radial~~radially~~ inner part of ~~the~~said circumferentially extending flange configured to be ~~being~~ thicker than a ~~radial~~radially outer part of ~~the~~said circumferentially extending flange.

6. (currently amended) ~~A preform~~The apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said ~~radially~~radial outer part of said circumferentially extending flange has ~~radially~~radial extending gaps in ~~it~~said circumferentially extending flange ~~whereby wherein the~~ said circumferentially extending flange is discontinuous in form.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising~~A container a container~~ and a cap, ~~said~~the container being blown from ~~said perform~~ a preform as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, the said cap having a skirt and a free ~~the free~~ edge of the said skirt being gripped between ~~the~~said band and ~~the~~said container.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7~~A container and a cap as claimed in claim 7,~~ wherein said skirt has a protruding bead that ~~the~~ said band shrinks onto to prevent the said skirt from being withdrawn from ~~the~~ said trough without breaking ~~it~~said skirt.

9. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a tamper evident closure using a preform which ~~comprises~~comprises:
moulding a preform having a flange which encircles a neck thereof ~~and~~; and,
urging a cylindrical tool against ~~the~~ said flange whilst ~~it is~~said flange is in a heated, softened condition to displace material of ~~the~~ said flange out of a plane~~the plane~~ of ~~the~~ said flange ~~and provide~~ to provide an encircling band which protrudes from ~~the~~ said flange.

10. (currently amended) ~~A method~~The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein ~~the~~said flange has a ~~radially~~radial inner part which is thicker than a ~~radially~~radial outer part, ~~and it is~~wherein said ~~the radially~~radial outer part ~~which~~ is displaced by said tool to form ~~the~~said band.

11. (currently amended) ~~A tamper evident closure comprising:~~In combination
a container~~and a~~; and,
a cap, ~~the~~said container having a neck which is encircled by a flange, there being a band which protrudes from ~~the~~said flange, ~~the~~said band, ~~the~~said part of ~~the~~said flange which lies radiallyradial inwardly of ~~the~~said band and ~~the~~a part of ~~the~~a surface of ~~the~~said neck which is immediately adjacent ~~the~~said flange defining a trough, ~~the~~said free edge of a skirt of ~~the~~said cap fitted to said neck being in said trough.

12. (currently amended) ~~The combination apparatus~~of claim 11, wherein said skirt has a line of weakening around ~~it~~said skirt which divides ~~it~~said skirt into a main portion and a ring, ~~the~~said ring forming ~~the~~a free end portion of ~~the~~said skirt, said ring, said line of weakening and ~~the~~said adjacent portion of ~~the~~said skirt's main part being in said trough.

13. (currently amended) A method of moulding a preform from which to make a tamper evident closure ~~which~~ wherein said preform comprises a hollow body and a flange encircling ~~the~~said hollow body, ~~the method~~ comprising moulding:
moulding a band onto ~~the~~said flange, ~~the~~
forming a trough via said band, thesaid flange and ~~the~~a part of ~~the~~said hollow body adjacent thesaid flange ~~forming a trough, the~~ wherein said band ~~being~~is moulded so that said band slopes towards ~~the~~said body from ~~its~~a junction with ~~the~~said flange, and ~~the~~said band ~~being expanded~~ expands outwardly after moulding to enhance ~~its~~said band's ability to shrink when heated.

14. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein ~~the~~said band is expanded by a part of ~~the~~said mould in which ~~the~~said preform is produced as ~~the~~said mould is opened.

15. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein ~~the~~the~~said~~said band is expanded by blowing air into said trough.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) ~~In combination with~~ A tamper evident closure comprising:

a cap comprising a transverse end wall and a skirt, there being a line of weakening which extends around ~~the~~the~~said~~said skirt and divides ~~it into~~said skirt into a main part and a ring at ~~the~~the~~said~~said end of ~~the~~the~~said~~said skirt remote from ~~the~~the~~said~~said transverse end wall; and,

a container of heat shrinkable material comprising a container body and a neck extending to ~~the~~the~~said~~said container's mouth, there being a flange encircling ~~the~~the~~said~~said neck and a band extending from ~~the~~the~~said~~said flange towards ~~the~~the~~said~~said container's mouth, ~~the~~the~~said~~said flange, ~~the~~the~~said~~said band and a part of ~~the~~the~~said~~said neck immediately adjacent ~~the~~the~~said~~said flange defining a trough; said band, said line of weakening and ~~the~~the~~said~~said portion of ~~the~~the~~said~~said main part of ~~the~~the~~said~~said skirt which is immediately adjacent said line of weakening being in said trough, ~~the~~the~~said~~said band having been heated so that it has shrunk onto ~~the~~the~~said~~said cap to grip said ring and said portion between itself and ~~the~~the~~said~~said container neck.

18. (currently amended) A method of forming ~~the~~ a tamper evident closure comprising a neck of a container which neck has end-to-end sleeves of different diameters, ~~the~~the~~said~~said larger diameter sleeve being between ~~the~~the~~said~~said smaller diameter sleeve and ~~the~~the~~said~~said remainder of ~~the~~the~~said~~said container, ~~the~~the~~said~~said method comprising forcing ~~the~~the~~said~~said smaller diameter sleeve into ~~the~~the~~said~~said larger diameter sleeve so as to fold ~~the~~the~~said~~said larger diameter sleeve and form a trough encircling ~~the~~the~~said~~said part of ~~the~~the~~said~~said smaller diameter sleeve which is within ~~the~~the~~said~~said larger diameter sleeve.